

**The real threat is not to fair competition between giants such as Hulu and Netflix; the threat is to fair competition between big companies and small ones.** Small companies face enough barriers. The last thing they need is for larger competitors to be able to buy faster delivery speeds that start-ups cannot afford.

Imagine a new travel-booking website that always loads slower than Kayak and Orbitz. Impatient customers will quickly give up on it, and the new site will fail. That means fewer competitors in the travel industry, which is bad for consumers.

**Free speech could suffer without a net-neutrality regulation.** Under the repeal plan outlined by FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, Internet providers could block websites they don't like. Market demands would probably prevent them from exercising that right very often, but why give huge corporations that kind of power? Consumers should be free to make their own decisions about content.

**A repeal would encourage further consolidation.** The Justice Department is suing a major Internet provider, AT&T, to block the company's acquisition of a major content producer, Time Warner. President Trump has said the deal would result in “too much concentration of power in the hands of too few.”

So why on Earth would the Trump administration roll back the net-neutrality regulation and give Internet providers such as AT&T more incentive to buy content producers such as Time Warner? It makes no sense. If Internet providers suddenly have the power to speed up content they own or slow down content owned by rivals, then they will want to own as much content as possible — which means more business deals such as the one Trump opposes.